

## Message Text

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10  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 /062 W  
----- 062207

R 070522Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4389  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: NN/A  
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, RP, TH  
SUBJECT: ROC PRESS REACTION TO MARCOS STATEMENT ON  
PHIL/PRC PRELATIONS

1. THE MARCH 1 POST-REFERENDUM ANNOUNCEMENT BY  
PHILIPPINES PREESIDENT MARCOS THAT HE EXPECTED  
MANILA TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PEKING THIS YEAR  
AND THAT HE PLANS TO VISIT THE PRC WAS NOT REPORTED  
WIDELY HERE. ONLY THE TWO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWS-  
PAPERS, THE CHINA POST AND CHINA NEWS, AND ONE  
CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO  
REPORTED THE MARCOS STATEMENT. COMMENTARY SO FAR  
HAS BEEN LIMITED TO MARCH 4 CHINA NEWS AND MARCH 5  
CHUNG YANG JIH PAO (CHYJP) EDITORIALS.

2. THE CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "RECOGNITION  
DANGERS", COMMENTING ON MOVES BY BOTH THE PHILIPPINES  
AND THAILAND TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC,  
NOTES THAT "IT ISN'T EASY TO CHANGE THE MINDS OF THOSE  
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WHO WISH TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN PEIPING. BUT

WE CAN AND SHOULD TRY, AND WE OUGHT TO ASK FOREIGN FRIENDS -- AMERICANS ESPECIALLY -- TO HELP. NEITHER THE PHILIPPINES NOR THAILAND HAVE ANYTHING TO GAIN THROUGH FORMALIZING THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. THEY HAVE A GOOD DEAL TO LOSE." IT CONCLUDES THAT "NOT THE LEAST OF RESTRAINING INFLUENCES FOR BOTH THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND SHOULD BE THE LONG AND CONSTRUCTIVE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE ROC. DO MANILA AND BANGKOK WISH TO HURT US AND THE CAUSE OF FREE CHINA? WE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT IS THE CASE."

3. THE CYJP EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "A WORD OF ADVICE TO THE PHILIPPINES," ASSERTS THAT THE MARCOS STATEMENT "INDICATES THAT ROC/PHIL RELATIONS HAVE REACHED AN UNPRECEDENTEDLY SERIOUS JUNCTURE" AND THAT "IF THE SITUATION SHOULD DEVELOP TO THE IRREMEDIAL STAGE," IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISFORTUNE NOT ONLY FOR THE ROC BUT ALSO FOR THE PHILIPPINES. "THE MAOISTS," IT CONTINUES, "ARE EAGER TO CONQUER THE PHILIPPINES, AND THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO MAKE THE PHILIPPINES ONE OF THE LINKS OF THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.... MAO HIMSELF ONCE REMARKED THAT SOUTHEAST ASIA IS A CHESS GAME. IF THE PHILIPPINES ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE PRC, IT WOULD BE A WRONG MOVE IN THE CHESS GAME THAT WILL PRODUCE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DOMINO THEORY. TO THE PHILIPPINES ITSELF, THIS WRONG MOVE WILL COST HER THE WHOLE GAME."

4. COMMENT: THE FAILURE OF MOST CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS TO REPORT THE MARCOS STATEMENT AND THE LIMITED PRESS COMMENTARY ARE PROBABLY A REFLECTION OF THE MEDIA'S NORMAL RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS UNFAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT MIGHT AROUSE CONCERN AMONG THE LOCAL POPULACE. HOWEVER, NOW THAT THE CYJP (WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS THE OFFICIAL ROC LINE) HAS SPOKEN, OTHER CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS MAY WELL FOLLOW.  
UNGER

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